

*Vol. 2, 1907, 1908, 1909*

CITY OF ROCHESTER.



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# REPORT

: OF :

# Medical Officer of Health

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URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT

AND

PORT SANITARY DISTRICT

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## 1913

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ROCHESTER:  
PARBETTS & NAVES, 80, HIGH STREET.



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# CITY OF ROCHESTER.



## Report as to Urban District.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

GUILDHALL, ROCHESTER.

*March 2nd, 1914.*

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to lay before you the following Report of the Sanitary condition of your District, for the year 1913.

I am, Gentlemen.

Your obedient Servant,

S. PRITCHETT.

Medical Officer of Health.

### GENERAL INFORMATION.

AREA, in acres, land and inland water, 2,715.

	Census 1891.	Census 1901.	Census 1911.
POPULATION ..	26,290	30,590	31,388
INHABITED HOUSES	5,076	6,236	

RATEABLE VALUE {	Poor Rate	£142,329	0	0
	General District Rate	£131,942	0	0

A ONE PENNY RATE PRODUCES {	Borough Rate	£589
	Education Rate	£581
	General District Rate	£510

ADOPTED ACTS	{	Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890.
	{	Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890.
	{	Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907.
	{	Notification of Births Act, 1907.

SANITARY STAFF CONSISTS OF	{	Medical Officer of Health.
	{	One Chief Sanitary Inspector.
	{	One Assistant Sanitary Inspector.
	{	One Clerk.





POPULATION.

The estimated population of the District at the middle of 1913 was 31,571 made up as follows :—  
South, 18,066. North, 13,505.

These figures are reached by presuming that the rate of increase has been the same since the 1911 Census as it was in the preceding intercensal period.

In the same way, as was noted in last year's report, it is probably an underestimate, owing to the conditions of employment remaining much better in the District than was the case in several years between 1901 and 1911.

BIRTHS.

During the year 712 births were registered, of which 40 were illegitimate. The births were made up as follows :—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
South ..	209	187	396
North ..	167	149	316
	<hr/> 376	<hr/> 336	<hr/> 712

This gives a Birth Rate of 22.5 per 1,000 of the estimated population, which is the lowest but one (1910) on record, and is 1.2 under the average of the previous five years.

The natural increase of population, by excess of births over deaths, amounted to 368. In 1912 it was 341, and its average for the preceding five years is 356.

DEATHS.

The number of nett deaths in the year, that is of residents dying either within or without the District, was 344, made up as follows :—

South ..	186	giving Death Rate	10.2.
North ..	158		11.6.
	<hr/> 344		

In 1912 the number was 399, and the average of the preceding five years is 391.

Vital Statistics of the District, giving a full elaboration of the above figures, will be found in the Tables appended to this Report.

The Death Rate for the year, all ages and all causes, was 10.8. This is the actual Death Rate for the District, and is called the "Recorded Rate." It is not strictly comparable with the Recorded Rates of other Districts, because such Districts vary in the age and sex distribution of their inhabitants. In order to overcome this discrepancy a figure called the "factor for correction" has been arrived at, and the Recorded Rate, multiplied by this figure, gives a "Corrected Rate" for any District, which is strictly comparable with the Corrected Rates of other Districts. The factor for correction of this District is .9627. The recorded rate, 10.8, multiplied by the factor gives the corrected rate of 10.3.

The Birth Rate was 22.5.

The Zymotic Death Rate was .53.

The Infant Mortality Rate, per 1,000 births registered, was 80.

The following Table shews a comparison between the "Rates" in your District and those in other parts of England and Wales for the year 1913.

	Birth.	Deaths		Infant
		Recorded.	Corrected.	Mortality
				per 1,000 births.
England and Wales .. .. .	23.9	13.7	13.4	109
96 Great Towns, including London ..	25.1	14.3	14.7	116
145 Smaller Towns .. .. .	23.9	12.8	13.0	112
England and Wales, less the 241 Towns	22.2	13.1	12.1	96
London .. .. .	24.8	14.2	14.2	104
<b>Rochester</b> .. .. .	<b>22.5</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>80</b>





THE DEATH RATE.										
The Death Rate, from all causes, and at all ages, was 10·8. The average for the preceding 5 years is 12·3.										
The following Table shows the Death Rate and the principal causes of death for the last ten years :—										
	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913
Death Rate, all causes ..	15·7	11·6	11·5	12·9	12·2	11·6	9·8	15·4	12·6	10·8
Infant Mortality Rate ..	143	110·4	133·9	110·8	76·2	78·5	72·2	115	83·7	80
Enteric Fever .. ..	8	6	5	7	3	3	1	1	11	2
Measles .. .. .	17	0	3	25	0	5	2	34	0	1
Scarlet Fever .. ..	2	1	1	7	1	2	1	2	0	0
Whooping Cough ..	2	10	1	11	3	7	9	4	6	2
Diphtheria .. ..	4	3	8	3	4	11	2	7	8	1
Phthisis .. .. .	38	35	32	35	21	34	26	34	35	29
Other Tuberculous diseases	15	15	16	15	21	10	10	17	10	6
Cancer .. .. .	24	22	23	26	26	37	34	34	37	37
Bronchitis .. ..	56	39	21	39	39	38	19	33	28	20
Pneumonia .. ..	34	22	21	23	22	17	22	27	29	22
Diarrhœa .. .. .	45	17	40	11	7	11	2	38	5	11
Premature Birth ..	19	14	25	22	13	5	8	37	23	25
Accidents .. ..	8	12	3	10	11	8	13	10	8	18
Suicides.. .. .	1	2	2	4	4	6	1	2	4	5
Heart Diseases ..	48	28	21	42	43	39	31	48	42	33
All other Causes ..	165	133	126	124	163	132	129	157	153	132
Total .. .. .	486	359	358	404	381	365	310	485	399	344

In this Table the Deaths from Enteric Fever, Measles, Scarlet Fever, and Whooping Cough, are very low. Phthisis and other Tuberculous Diseases show a decline. Cancer remains high, and the number of deaths from accidents is also high.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

Table shewing number of Deaths for past ten years.

	Small Pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Whooping Cough.	Enteric Fever.	Diarrhœa.	Total.	Death Rate per 1,000.
1904	0	17	2	4	2	8	45	78	2·5
1905	0	0	1	3	10	6	17	37	1·2
1906	0	3	1	8	1	5	40	58	1·8
1907	0	25	7	3	11	7	11	64	2·5
1908	0	0	1	4	3	3	7	18	·57
1909	0	5	2	11	7	3	11	39	1·2
1910	0	2	1	2	9	1	2	17	·54
1911	0	34	2	7	4	1	38	86	2·7
1912	0	0	0	8	6	11	3	28	·88
1913	0	1	0	1	2	2	11	17	·53

The average Death Rate for the preceding ten years, from 1903 to 1912, is 1·44. The Zymotic Death Rate for the year under review is the lowest recorded for many years and is rather more than one third of the average. Measles and Diarrhœa are the two chief diseases which go to swell the Zymotic Death Rate and will no doubt make their influence again felt in the future.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFICATION ACT.

The following Notifications were received during the year :—

Parish.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Ery-sipelas.	Enteric Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Pulmonary Tuber-culosis	Other Tuber-culosis.	Acute Polio-myelitis.	Cerebro Spinal Fever.	Total.
Strood and Frindsbury ..	42	39	20	12	0	33	15	0	0	161
St. Margaret's....	18	15	15	4	1	25	18	3	0	99
St. Nicholas .....	3	1	1	0	0	4	3	0	0	12
Chatham Intra .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	63	55	36	16	1	62	36	3	0	272



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From this Table it will be seen that the South Division furnished 111 Notifications, and the North 161.

The following Table shows from whence the Notifications came, and the average for ten years :—

	South.	North.	Total
1903	145	77	222
1904	91	84	175
1905	68	72	140
1906	76	119	195
1907	108	140	248
1908	158	117	275
1909	93	67	160
1910	64	44	108
1911	145	183	328
1912	301	351	652
Average for years 1903-1912	124'9	125'4	250 3
1913	111	161	272

Compulsory Notification of Pulmonary Tuberculosis came into operation on January 1st, 1912. This was extended to all cases of Tuberculosis, wherever situated, on February 1st, 1913; and since, in the year under review, these two conditions accounted for 98 notifications out of the total of 272, the above figures are somewhat misleading unless allowance be made for the new entrants to the list of notifications.

If, for the sake of comparison, these notifications were subtracted from the totals for 1913, the last line of figures would read :

	South	North	Total
1913	61	113	174

So far as the South is concerned this is the lowest for at least 10 years, but the North remains comparatively high.

These figures also take no account of five cases of Scarlet Fever and one case of Diphtheria, which subsequent observation proved to be wrongly diagnosed. Allowance for these, however, will be made in Table II., which follows later in the Report.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS AND CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.

Three cases of the former of these diseases were notified from St. Bartholomew's Hospital, which is situated in the District. The cases, however, did not arise in the District and therefore call for no further comment. There was no notification of Cerebro-Spinal Fever.

SMALL POX.

No case was notified during the year.

SCARLET FEVER.

Sixty-three cases were notified and there was no death; 46 cases were removed to Hospital. Of these 63 cases, subsequent observation shewed five to be wrongly diagnosed and allowance is made for these in Table II.

The following table shews the number of cases and removals in the last 10 years.

	Cases	Removals	
1904	.. 56	43 or 76'7	per cent.
1905	.. 43	30 or 69'7	„
1906	.. 61	49 or 80.3	„
1907	.. 166	144 or 86'7	„
1908	.. 151	120 or 79'4	„
1909	.. 69	53 or 76'8	„
1910	.. 38	32 or 84'2	„
1911	.. 135	112 or 82'9	„
1912	.. 230	175 or 76'0	„
1913	.. 63	46 or 73	„

Of the 63 cases notified 42 came from the North side of the River and 21 from the South.

The number of cases of Scarlet Fever notified shews a very marked diminution on the previous two years and it will be interesting to see if the figures remain low in the current year and rise again in 1915, thus establishing a kind of periodicity similar to the years from 1907 to 1910.

I do not expect to see a permanent diminution in the prevalence of Infectious Diseases in Districts such as this, as the conditions of life amongst children are probably more favourable to the spread of Infection than they have ever been before. Such conditions are the compulsory aggregation of large numbers of children in the Elementary Schools, cheap facilities of travel, which permit far more mingling together than used to be the case, cheap forms of amusement, too often carried on under unhygienic surroundings, and finally, according to my own observations, a tendency on the part of parents to accept a lessened responsibility with regard to the care of their children.





## MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH.

There was one death from Measles and two from Whooping Cough. The following Table shews the number of deaths from these two diseases in the last 10 years.

			Deaths.
1904	..	..	19
1905	..	..	10
1906	..	..	4
1907	..	..	36
1908	..	..	3
1909	..	..	12
1910	..	..	11
1911	..	..	38
1912	..	..	6
1913	..	..	3

The figures for 1913 are highly satisfactory, but as Measles shows an undoubted periodicity in its prevalence, it is probable that in the current year, or not later than in 1915, we shall again see a large number of deaths, unless in the meantime the people can be brought to a proper understanding of the management of children suffering from this disease, the mortality from which is almost entirely preventable.

## DIPHTHERIA AND MEMBRANOUS CROUP.

Fifty-five cases were notified, and there was one death. Forty cases were removed to Hospital. One of these cases was found to be wrongly diagnosed, and allowance is made for it in Table II.

The following Table shows the number of cases and removals since 1904.

		Cases.		Removals.	
1904	..	44	..	16	or 36·3 per cent.
1905	..	31	..	21	or 67·7 „
1906	..	72	..	51	or 70·8 „
1907	..	22	..	22	or 100 „
1908	..	32	..	16	or 50 „
1909	..	42	..	25	or 59·5 „
1910	..	23	..	16	or 69·5 „
1911	..	144	..	109	or 75·6 „
1912	..	176	..	98	or 55·6 „
1913	..	55	..	40	or 72·7 „

These cases were spread about the District, and throughout the year, the North suffering more than the South. They were extremely mild in character, as is shown by the fact that there was only one death. At no time did suspicion attach to any one School, or to any particular source of food.

Anti-Diphtheritic Serum is supplied free of cost, and can be obtained at the Police Station at any hour day or night. Seventeen applications were made for the Serum, and 119,000 units were issued, at a cost to the Corporation of about £6/11/-.

Bacteriological examinations are undertaken at the Laboratory of the County Council, and elaborate facilities are placed in the hands of the General Practitioners both with regard to Antitoxic Serum, as explained above, and with regard to supplies of sterilized swabs.

Forty-four bacteriological examinations were made during the year with eleven positive, and thirty-three negative, results.

## TABLE OF BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

		Positive.	Negative.	Total.
1908	..	8	21	29
1909	..	11	19	30
1910	..	10	20	30
1911	..	42	38	80
1912	..	64	60	124
1913	..	11	33	44

## ENTERIC OR TYPHOID FEVER.

Sixteen cases of Typhoid Fever were notified and there were two deaths; fifteen cases were removed to Hospital.

The following table shews the number of cases and removals since 1904.

	Cases.		Removals.	
1904	39	26	or	66·6 per cent.
1905	34	25	or	73·5 „
1906	34	21	or	61·7 „
1907	32	17	or	53·1 „
1908	59	47	or	79·6 „
1909	19	11	or	57·8 „
1910	16	14	or	87·5 „
1911	13	7	or	53·9 „
1912	85	77	or	90·5 „
1913	16	15	or	93·7 „





Of the sixteen cases notified, ten arose in Windmill Street, Frindsbury, and the original infection was probably conveyed by a carrier case, who had the disease at the time of the outbreak in 1912. Six of the ten were members of the same family and all the cases lived in close contact. Of the remaining six cases, one was a Nurse at the Isolation Hospital, in one case the infection could not be traced, and four cases were due, almost undoubtedly, to the consumption of sewage polluted shell-fish.

During the year 25 Bacteriological examinations of suspected cases were made, with 15 positive and 10 negative results.

Table of bacteriological examinations.

		Positive.		Negative.		Total.
1908	..	21	..	19	..	40
1909	..	1	..	10	..	11
1910	..	13	..	10	..	23
1911	..	9	..	10	..	19
1912	..	70	..	54	..	124
1913	..	15	..	10	..	25

DIARRHŒA AND INFANT MORTALITY.

During the year there were fifty-seven deaths of Infants under the age of one year, giving an infantile mortality rate of 80 per 1000 births registered. The average of the preceding 5 years is 85·1. In 1912 the infantile death rate was 83·7.

This rate is much lower than the average for any other part of England and Wales and is largely due to the small number of deaths from Diarrhœa, which was only nine, as against 24 in 1911, when the rate was 115. By far its greatest contributor is deaths from Congenital Debility and Malformation and Premature Birth. These causes of death are likely to remain more or less constant but the number of deaths from Diarrhœa will depend upon climatic conditions and very largely upon the degree of efficiency with which the homes and surroundings of the poorer people are kept in a clean and sanitary condition.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACT.

During the year 712 births was registered and 576 notified under the Act. This is 80 per cent., as against 80 per cent. in 1912, 80 in 1911, 92 in 1910, and 83 in 1909. Twenty-five still-borns were notified.

The notifications were made as follows:

Doctors.	Midwives	Parents
153	398	25

Five hundred and sixty-two mothers were visited by the Nurse, and the following Table, which applies only to Infants living at the time of the last visit, affords statistics respecting them. Particulars of infants who have died are shown later.

Breast Fed	Bottle Fed	House Clean	House Fairly Clean	House Dirty
478	89	396	153	13

There were five pairs of Twins

In 12 instances the Nurse was refused, or could not gain admission. All infants reckoned as Breast Fed in the above Table were still fed in the same way on the occasion of the Nurse's last visit—that is at or about the age of two months.

The difference between the number of cases notified and those visited is made up as follows:

- Cases unsuitable for the Nurse to visit.
- Cases where admission was refused or could not be gained.
- Cases dying before the first visit was due.
- Cases removing from the District before the first visit was due.

Forty-seven cases, which were not notified under the Act, were visited by the Nurse and are included in the above figures.

Of the 562 mothers visited, 48 were engaged in work outside their own homes until a short period before their confinement.

During the year 30 infants who had been visited by the Nurse died.

The following Table gives some particulars of these deaths.

	Age	Cause of Death	Method of Feeding	Remarks
1	4 months	Marasmus	Bottle	
2	10 "	Hydrocephalus	Breast	
3	4 "	Epidemic Diarrhœa	Bottle	
4	8 "			
5	11 "	Do. and Marasmus	do. (long tube)	House Dirty
6	11 days	Enteritis	Breast	
7	4 months		Bottle	House Dirty
8	7 "	Pneumonia	"	Illegitimate
9	11 "	Epidemic Diarrhœa	Solid Food	
10	2 "	Congenital Syphilis	Breast	
11	1 "	Marasmus	Bottle	
12	1 "		"	
13	4 "	Whooping Cough	Breast	
14	7 "	Pneumonia	"	
15	13 days	Bronchitis	"	





	Age	Cause of Death	Method of Feeding	Remarks
16	3 months	Congenital Syphilis	Bottle	
17	8 "	Epidemic Diarrhoea	"	
18	11 days	Marasmus	"	
19	11 months	Pneumonia	Breast	
20	3 "	Marasmus	Bottle	
21	2 "	Epidemic Diarrhoea	"	
22	1 "	Congenital Debility	Breast	
23	11 days	"	"	
24	7 months	Meningitis	Bottle	
25	4 "	Convulsions	"	
26	8 "	Whooping Cough	"	
27	10 "	Marasmus	" (long tube)	
28	2 "	Bronchitis	" "	
29	2 "	Marasmus	"	Premature
30	4 "	Bronchitis	Breast	

This Table shows that 15 Infants died from causes largely or wholly depending on unsuitable food, and that 13 of the 15 were bottle fed. One, aged 11 days was breast fed, and one had solid food. It also shows that the "long tube" is not yet quite extinct in this District.

### PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis, or Phthisis, became voluntarily notifiable in this District in 1907; it was made compulsorily notifiable so far as regards Poor Law patients in 1909, and Hospital patients in 1911. Compulsory Notification of all cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis came into operation on January 1st, 1912; finally, Compulsory Notification of all cases of Tubercle, wherever situated, came into force on February 1st, 1913.

In 1913, 62 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 36 cases of other forms of Tuberculosis were notified. Their distribution between the South and North portions of the District is shewn in Table II.

The following are the figures for the last 10 years:—

	Notifications.								Deaths	
									(Pulmonary only).	
	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.				Other forms.					
	Voluntary.	Poor Law.	Hospital.	Compulsory.						
1904	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	38
1905	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	35
1906	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	32
1907	..	24	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	35
1908	..	20	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	21
1909	..	46	..	20	..	—	..	—	..	34
1910	..	33	..	15	..	—	..	—	..	26
1911	..	23	..	22	..	27	..	—	..	34
1912	..	—	..	—	..	122	..	—	..	35
1913	..	—	..	—	..	62	..	36	..	29

There were 5 deaths in 1913 from Tuberculosis other than Pulmonary.

From this Table it is clear that the institution of Compulsory Notification at once gave a great impetus to the number of cases notified, rising from 72 in 1911 to 122 in 1912. So far as Pulmonary Tuberculosis is concerned it has fallen to 62 in 1913, which is in accordance with expectation and may possibly represent the average number of new cases arising each year in this District.

The 36 cases of Other Forms of Tuberculosis were made up as follows:—Glands, 17; Spinal column, 6; Joints, 5; Bone, 3; Peritoneum, 2; Cerebral Meninges, 1; Skin, 1; Epididymis, 1.

Bacteriological examination of the sputa of suspected cases is undertaken at the County Laboratory, and the following shows the results for the last two years:—

	Positive.	Negative.	Total.
1912	.. 5	.. 29	.. 34
1913	.. 15	.. 26	.. 41

In all cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis the premises are visited by an Inspector, who reports on the conditions existing there. Spit-cups and bottles are provided free of cost, leaflets of advice are issued and disinfectants supplied. Disinfection of premises is undertaken after death or removal.

There is now a Tuberculosis Dispensary in the neighbourhood available for the treatment of patients, and the following is undertaken:—

All insured persons are entitled to Sanatorium benefit, consisting of either—

1. Treatment in Sanatoria;
2. Domiciliary treatment;
3. Dispensary treatment; or
4. Nourishment ancillary to treatment, in suitable cases.

Non-insured persons, on the recommendation of a Medical man, can obtain treatment at the Dispensary, consisting of Tuberculin, preparations of Cod Liver Oil, and other medicinal treatment.

The County Tuberculosis Officer sees any case or suspected case or contact, whether insured or not, if presented with a Doctor's written recommendation; and will see a patient in consultation with a Doctor, or will take over the entire charge of the case. All Medical men practising in the District have been advised by circular of these facilities.





During the year 55 cases of Tuberculosis from the District have come under the observation of the Tuberculosis Officer and were dealt with as follows :—

Received Dispensary treatment	..	36
Received Domiciliary visits only	..	19
		<hr/>
		55
		<hr/>

#### CANCER.

Thirty-seven deaths were registered from this cause. The average for the preceding ten years is 28·8

#### THE CONTAGIOUS DISEASES (ANIMALS) ACT.

Six cases of Swine Fever occurred during the year.

#### FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

BAKEHOUSES.—These are sixteen in number. They are all systematically inspected and their condition is generally satisfactory. A great deal of care is taken to prevent the contamination of bread during its manufacture and before its sterilization by heat, and very properly so. The distribution of the finished article, however, exposes it to the contamination of such agencies as flies, and dust, to say nothing of handling by dirty or possibly infectious persons. Possibly some day it may be found practicable to store and deliver all loaves in paper bags.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.—These number 211, which is 14 more than in 1912. They have been systematically inspected and the following defects discovered :—Want of ventilation 1, unsuitable or defective sanitary accommodation 8, other nuisances 16 ; total 25.

There were seven defects in 1912, 30 in 1911, 9 in 1910, 32 in 1909, 44 in 1908, 29 in 1907, 37 in 1906, and 37 in 1905.

HOMEWORK.—As far as known, Homework is carried on in 49 premises. Sixty-five inspections were made during the year and the conditions found were generally satisfactory.

#### LODGING HOUSES.

There are two registered Common Lodging Houses in the District. Both are systematically inspected, and their condition is uniformly satisfactory.

#### OFFENSIVE TRADES.

FRIED FISH SHOPS.—Bye-Laws for the regulation of these are in operation. There are eleven in the District and all have been systematically inspected. Three are newly-licensed and have up-to-date equipment. Five are fairly satisfactory and in the case of three considerable alterations and improvements have been required. One has been closed during the year.

There is one other Offensive Trade carried on in the District, that of a Fat Melter. It is conducted in a satisfactory manner.

#### DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

COWSHEDS.—There are five in the District. All are systematically inspected, and are in fairly satisfactory order. Veterinary Inspection of Milch Cows is undertaken by Mr. E. Ebbetts who visits all the Cowsheds once a quarter, and at such other times as may be necessary. He is authorized to apply the Tuberculin Test whenever he sees fit, and is required to report to the Health Committee the result of his investigations. During the year four such quarterly inspections have been made. No Tuberculin Test was applied. One Cow, which was very thin, was killed, and another, for the same reason, was withdrawn from milking. On several occasions Cows were reported to be in a dirty condition.

Under the Tuberculosis Order one cow was slaughtered, found to be tuberculous, and compensation was paid. Three suspected cows were found in the market and sent back to the place from whence they came by the Veterinary Inspector, who duly notified the Police Authorities of the respective districts involved.

MILKSHOPS.—There are thirty-one on the register. Many are general shops, and in these cases the policy of trying to persuade the proprietors to give up the sale of milk is followed. All are systematically inspected and are required to keep the milk vessels covered with a sheet of muslin and are urged to maintain scrupulous cleanliness.

#### SLAUGHTER HOUSES AND UNSOUND FOOD.

There are six Slaughter-houses in the District, of which five are registered and one licensed.

They are systematically inspected and many other visits are paid at times of slaughtering and at other times.

The general condition of these Slaughter-houses is satisfactory and marks a great improvement on the conditions formerly obtaining.

A list of Animal Food condemned and destroyed appears in the Sanitary Inspector's Report attached to this Report.

#### FOOD POISONING.

No case arose during the year.



FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

Analyses performed under the Acts during the year :—

Article.	Total.	Formally taken.	Adulterated.	Informally taken.	Adulterated.
Margarine .. ..	8	8	—	—	—
Butter .. ..	12	7	—	5	—
Lard .. ..	12	8	—	4	—
Tea .. ..	3	3	—	—	—
Milk .. ..	22	17	1	5	—
Vinegar . . .	8	6	1	2	1
Flour .. ..	2	2	—	—	—
Ground Rice .. ..	2	2	—	—	—
Preserved Cream .. ..	3	—	—	3	—
Cream .. ..	3	2	—	1	—
	75	55	2	20	1

RESULTS OF PROCEEDINGS.

No. of Sample.			
127 ..	Vinegar .	53·2 per cent. deficient in Acetic Acid.	
		To pay £1/0/6 costs.	
156 ..	Milk ..	20 per cent. deficient in Fat.	
		Fined 2/6 and 19/6 costs.	

One sample of Cream was informally taken and found to contain Boric Acid. As the article was not labelled to this effect, a breach of the “Public Health (Milk and Cream) Regulations, 1912,” was committed. The vendor pleaded ignorance and was cautioned.

The percentage of Adulterations for 1913 and preceding years is as follows :—

	1913.	1912.	1911.	1910.	1909.	1908.	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.
Milk ..	4·5	12·5	21·0	11·7	5·0	15·3	34·5	16·6	34·4	34·6
All Analyses	4·0	5·3	12·3	2·6	4·8	8·1	13·5	8·3	22·2	21·1

The percentage of Adulterations for the whole County of Kent for 1913 is 7·82.

LOCAL RAINFALL IN 1913.

By the courtesy of the City Surveyor I am able to give the following information, which was obtained at Strood Waterworks, situated in the District.

Month,	Total Depth, inches.	Greatest Rainfall in 24 Hours, inches.	Date.	Number of Days with '01 or more recorded.
January ..	3·02	·38	30	21
February ..	·88	·25	1	12
March ..	2·27	·35	16	24
April ..	2·61	·33	3	21
May ..	1·16	·37	27	11
June ..	·46	·18	20	9
July ..	2·37	·53	14	14
August ..	1·43	·33	9	12
September ..	1·58	·61	16	12
October ..	4·34	1·08	26	18
November ..	3·17	·74	21	19
December ..	·82	·38	23	11
	24·11			184

There were 14 less rain days than in 1911 and 2·2 inches less rain. The average rainfall of the preceding 10 years is 23·4 inches.

As was the case in last year's Report, July, August, and September, were months by no means conspicuous for heat and drought and such meteorological conditions are again reflected in the low number of Infantile Deaths from Diarrhœa and Enteritis.

HOUSING, TOWN PLANNING, ETC., ACT, 1910.

The following Table shows what has been done under this Act during the year.

Number of Houses Inspected .. ..	186
„ „ Found to be unfit for Habitation .. ..	27
„ „ Representations as to Closing Orders .. ..	27
„ „ Closing Orders made .. ..	27
„ „ Houses in which defects were remedied without Closing Orders	38
„ „ Houses which were put into repair after Closing Orders were made	9

The defects found to exist consisted generally of Dilapidations, Defective and Insufficient Drainage Defective Ventilation, Dampness, Defective Lighting, Insufficient Paving, and Dirty Walls and Ceilings.

Twenty-seven houses were demolished (closed in 1912).

The Closing Orders were made in respect of The Orchard, Bill Street Road, and Frindsbury Road (15), Love Lane (2), John Street (8), and Nag's Head Lane (2). Of the 186 houses inspected, as stated above, 27 have been closed under Closing Orders, in 38 instances the defects have been remedied, in 29 cases works are in progress and 85 are outstanding. Seven were voluntarily closed.

Particulars, in detail, are kept on cards, and are available for reference at any time.





All Plans for new buildings are inspected, so far as drainage and sanitary accommodation are concerned, in the Health Department, and alterations and suggestions made where it seems necessary.

The following Table has reference to new houses built or designed during the year.

	Plans Passed			Built	
Artizans' Dwellings	..	8	..	12	(6 from 1912)
Cottages .. ..	..	6	..	—	
Other Houses ..	..	17	..	3	

Seven cases of overcrowding came under observation, of which six were remedied and one is outstanding.

At the time of writing there are 113 empty houses in the District, 85 South of the River and 28 North. These houses are mostly of the better class. Housing accommodation for the working classes is satisfactory in its character, but barely sufficient in its extent for the artisan class, and there is a shortage of cottages for unskilled labourers earning about £1 a week. This is a matter which is already engaging the attention of the Corporation, and Plans and Estimates and suggestions as to Sites for Workmen's Dwellings are being prepared by the City Surveyor for submission to a Special Committee.

## SCHOOLS.

The Medical Inspection of School Children is administered by the Medical Officer of Health who is also School Medical Officer and a whole time Official. There are two part time Medical Inspectors and a Nurse, who devotes half her time to School work and the other half to duties under the Notification of Births Act.

Information as to Non-notifiable Infectious Disease is obtained from the Head Teachers, who send to the Health Office a daily list of such children as are absent from School by reason of Mumps, Measles, Whooping Cough, Chicken Pox or German Measles.

The School Medical Officer supervises the Sanitary arrangements of the Schools, and reports to the Education Committee. The Sanitation of the Schools is also fully discussed in the Annual Report of the School Medical Officer to the same Committee.

## GENERAL SANITARY CONDITIONS.

THE WATER SUPPLY is from two sources. That portion of the District South of the River is supplied by the Rochester, Chatham, Gillingham and Brompton Water Company, and the water is drawn from the wells in the Chalk and Greensand. The Company's officials cause frequent and regular Chemical and Bacteriological examinations to be made, the results of which are uniformly satisfactory. The Supply is constant.

North of the River, the District is supplied from a well in the Chalk, which is situated within the District, and is the property of the Corporation. This water is undoubtedly subject to pollution and must be regarded as dangerous. Before it reaches the consumer it is treated with chloros and passed through charcoal filters. Monthly Bacteriological analyses are made, which shew that the crude water is liable to varying degrees of pollution but that the treated water is rendered free from dangerous constituents. The position is not regarded as satisfactory and measures are being taken to secure a new source of supply. The present supply is constant. Observation is kept on the few private wells which still exist in outlying parts of the District.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL is by unrendered cesspools dug in the chalk. This insanitary method of dealing with sewage seems at last to be coming to an end. The City of Rochester has combined with the neighbouring Borough of Chatham in a joint scheme of Main Drainage. The Sewage is to be collected from the two Districts and conveyed to an outfall works situated about five miles lower down the River Medway. When this is an accomplished fact, a great reproach will have been removed from the two towns, an impulse will have been given to their prosperity and expansion, and a notable improvement in the Public Health will undoubtedly become apparent.

There are about 456 open Privies in the District. During the year, 144 have been converted into Water Closets, or demolished and replaced by Water Closets. In the last six years 455 open privies have ceased to exist.

HOUSEHOLD REFUSE is collected at sufficiently frequent intervals and deposited in two heaps, one on either side of the river. On the South Side the heap is close to highly populated parts of the City, and is offensive and dangerous to the Public Health. It forms an admirable place for the breeding of rats and flies, and is but a poor object lesson to individual householders in the matter of the dangers which attach to want of care in the disposal of refuse.

On the North side, the heap which was formerly also close to many houses, has now been removed to a site further away.

The receptacles used by the people for their refuse consists largely of old buckets, baths, boxes, hampers, and other entirely unsuitable articles. This is a matter which stands in urgent need of attention.

There is no effective control over the removal of stable manure, and regulations should be put in force by which, at all events from the beginning of April until the end of September in each year, such manure should be required to be removed at intervals of not more than one week.

DISINFECTION. Disinfection of premises after disease is undertaken by the Sanitary staff, and is usually accomplished by means of Formalin Vapour. There is no Disinfecting Station in the District, but occasionally articles are dealt with at the Steam Disinfector at St. William's Hospital.

The following Report of the Sanitary Inspector gives details of work done during the year in connection with House Drainage, Inspection of Meat, Emptying of Cesspools and other matters.





# Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Sixth Annual Report on the Sanitary Inspection of the City.

During the past year 5,381 inspections and visits were made by your Inspectors in carrying out their duties under the Public Health Acts and Bye Laws in force in the City. The amount of outdoor work done, however, gives an incomplete idea of the demands on your Inspectors' time, much of the pressure experienced during 1913 being due to the large amount of office work which outdoor duties entailed. The drafting of letters, notices, specifications, preparation of drainage plans, and the compiling of records of special and general work necessitated the spending of considerable time in the office, and there is every likelihood of an increase in this work. The total amount of work accomplished during the past year exceeded that of any previous year, and it must be said that it is becoming increasingly difficult to avoid the work getting into arrears.

Sanitary improvements numbering 2,246 were effected through the action of your officials in the course of the year, shewing an increase of 411 on the figure for 1912. Close supervision was given to work done under notices from the Health Department, as is evident from the fact that 2,295 visits were made to such work while it was in progress. The number of premises dealt with on account of the existence of sanitary defects was 600, and in connection with these 573 Intimation and 21 Statutory notices were served. The last figure does not include Closing and Demolition Orders which were prepared by the Town Clerk, but copies were served by the Assistant Inspector at the various houses involved. No police court proceedings were necessary to enforce the requirements of the notices, but there was, however, a little more difficulty in getting the work put in hand. This was particularly so in connection with some of the houses where extensive improvements were required under the Housing, etc., Act, 1909.

## COMPLAINTS.

160 complaints were received regarding nuisances which could be dealt with by the Health Department. The majority referred to comparatively trivial matters, but all were given prompt attention. Considering the serious insanitary conditions otherwise found it is surprising that more complaints were not received.

## HOUSING.

186 houses were inspected and reported upon under the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909. This number is a considerable increase on that for 1912, but taken by itself it may still appear small enough to necessitate some explanation. Attention to other important work had, of course, much to do with limiting the amount of house-to-house inspection done, but other factors exerted no small influence on this branch of your Inspectors' activities. The properties which were dealt with were some of the oldest cottages in the city. The chronic tendency to fall into disrepair, so common to old houses, had in many of the dwellings been intensified by the owners' neglect. Some of the houses, too, had serious structural faults, and the sanitary arrangements belied their name. The time taken to inspect such property is much longer than when more modern houses are being dealt with, and, also, the amount of work involved in drawing up detailed schedules of work is correspondingly greater. Again, 98 of the 186 houses inspected were those in John Street. These houses are leasehold, and the leases expire in a very few years, a fact which added further difficulties to those associated with the property itself. The demands of the Council for necessary alterations, as well as for repairs, have been very serious matters for the leaseholders, some of whom are in straightened circumstances, and much time has been taken up in dealing with them. More could be said, but sufficient has been mentioned to prove that the mere number of houses inspected is of little use in judging the amount of work done by your officials under the Housing Act.

The table herewith gives a list of the properties inspected, and also shews the number of houses where the insanitary conditions were collectively sufficient and serious to make Closing Orders necessary.

	No. of Houses Inspected.	Closing Orders Made.
Frindsbury Road } .. ..	38	15
The Orchard } .. ..		
Bill Street Road } .. ..		
King street .. ..	1	—
Love Lane .. ..	8	2
Garden Row, High Street .. ..	8	—
John Street .. ..	98	8
Nag's Head Lane .. ..	13	2
Friary Place .. ..	20	—
	186	27





The various defects found to exist in the 186 houses numbered 1,142, and are here tabulated :—

Insufficient light to rooms .. .. .	15
Absence of through ventilation .. .. .	40
Dampness .. .. .	65
Defective wall & ceiling plaster .. .. .	101
Dirty walls and ceilings .. .. .	115
Defective floors .. .. .	104
Defective Windows .. .. .	99
Defective roofs .. .. .	80
Defective eaves guttering and downpipes .. .. .	78
Defective or foul W.C.'s .. .. .	34
Offensive privies .. .. .	54
Defective drains .. .. .	21
Insufficient drainage and W.C. accommodation .. .. .	47
Absence of sinks ; defective sinks and waste pipes .. .. .	57
Defective or insufficient paving .. .. .	112
Dirty houses (Tenants' neglect) .. .. .	12
Other defects .. .. .	108
	<hr/>
	1142

To the 27 houses formally closed by the Council during 1913, there must be added 3 in Dunning's Lane, 1 in King Street, and 3 in Love Lane, which were voluntarily closed by the owners after they had been served with schedules of work necessary for putting the properties into sanitary condition. Of the total 34 houses, 10 were already unoccupied and uninhabitable at the time of inspection. Of the other 24 houses, 6 in Bill Street Road, 1 in Frindsbury Road, and 2 in Love Lane were made habitable and the Closing Orders determined, thus reducing the number actually put out of use to 15. Against this has to be set the fact that plans have been passed and the contract let for the building of 6 new four-roomed cottages on the site of the 3 cottages in Love Lane.

27 cottages in Dunning's Lane, reported upon in 1912, were demolished by the owners during the past year, 25 under Demolition Orders and 2 voluntarily. The Closing Orders regarding the 25 houses were really made in January, 1913, but the Health Committee resolution regarding them was passed in December, 1912, and consequently they were included in the figures for that year. This is mentioned to clear up what might appear to be a discrepancy between the Report for 1913 and the Council's minutes for the same period.

Seven new houses of a better class have been built on the site of the seven cottages in Borstal Place which were dealt with in 1911.

During the past three years 90 houses have been closed as the result of inspections under the "Housing, etc., Act, 1909"; 72 were closed by Orders and 18 voluntarily by the owners. Of the 90 there were 20 unoccupied at the time of inspection, and only 9 have been put into habitable condition. 8 new houses have been built and 6 more are about to be erected on the sites of demolished houses. The number of houses closed is somewhat large, but this is due to the worst property in the City having been dealt with first, and closures are not likely to be so numerous in the future.

The powers given by the Housing Act are proving most useful in getting property put into thorough satisfactory condition, but it is a matter for regret that the Act contains no provisions for effectively dealing with dirty and destructive tenants. One of the standing complaints of property owners is that legislation in this respect is so one-sided, and the complaint is not without cause. It is no easy matter to persuade an owner to carry out extensive improvements when he knows that anything he does may in great measure be counteracted by the carelessness and uncleanness of tenants. Reluctance to execute the work is intensified when many of the tenants are in arrears with their rent, and the reality of this factor as affecting the landlord's proper attention to his property was made clear by an agent who informed me that of 120 cottages in Rochester under his care, the rents being from 5/- per week downwards, the tenants of 62 were in such arrears. The tenant, as well as the owner, certainly contributes difficulties to the housing problem.

#### HOUSE DRAINAGE.

The defective drainage of 260 houses was dealt with during the past year; 195 houses were completely re-drained, 47 were partly re-drained, and the drains of the remaining 18 houses were repaired. This work represents considerable expenditure on the part of the owners, and your officials recognise that in calling for it all reasonable assistance should be given to enable the owners to have the work executed as economically as is consistent with thoroughness. In the majority of cases owners were supplied with plans and details, which enabled them to put the work out to tender, thus ensuring economy and allowing the owners to know to what expense they were committing themselves before the work was commenced. Daily visits were made to work in progress, and no part was passed until it had satisfactorily withstood the tests applied. Subsequently plans and records were prepared and filed away for future reference. There are now some hundreds of these plans in the office, and not infrequently they are referred to, but their value is likely to be more when the main drainage work is in hand.

The increase in the drainage work is in part due to the conversion of insanitary privies into water closets. The existence of soak-away privy pits, many of them abutting on the sculleries of houses, is naturally viewed with disfavour, and to the offensive smells which emanate from them at all times, there is added the danger from flies which swarm in many of the apartments during the heat of summer. The number of privies abolished during 1913 was 144, which is the largest number so far dealt with in one year, being 40 ahead of the figure for 1912. 83 new W.C. apartments were also constructed during the past year.

#### CESSPOOL EMPTYING.

The number of loads of sewage removed in daytime from cesspools was 4,912, an increase of 222 loads on the total for 1912. In the first quarter of the year there was a decrease of 181 loads removed as com





pared with the figures for the corresponding quarter of the previous year. There was reason to believe that the plant was not being used to the best advantage, and a new foreman of the staff was appointed. In the ensuing nine months the decrease of 181 loads was turned into an increase of 222 loads. This was undoubtedly due in some measure to more efficient management of the plant and staff by the new foreman but the opening up of the whole of Rochester Bridge for traffic removed the cause for the delays which had for a long time hampered the work on the Strood side of the river. The three steam tractors have on the whole done the haulage of the vacuum tanks in a satisfactory manner, and occasional breakdowns have not caused any serious interference with the work of emptying the cesspools. During the past year there was indeed less difficulty in dealing with requests for cesspool emptying than in the previous two or three years, although occasionally circumstances were such that applications could not be dealt with as promptly as was desirable.

1,196 loads of sewage were removed from privy pits and cesspools at night time, an increase of 76 loads on the number for 1912. Considering that the number of privies has been considerably reduced during the past few years, this increase requires some explanation. The necessity of sludging out a larger number of cesspools is the reason for the increase, such work accounting for 619 loads of the total for 1913. In a few instances the night staff and plant were used to relieve cesspools which were in urgent need of emptying and which could not be dealt with immediately during the daytime.

### SLAUGHTER HOUSES & FOOD INSPECTION.

In connection with food inspection much more attention was given to the slaughter houses in the City than in previous years. Including regular weekly visits to the Cattle Market, 403 visits were made for the purpose of exercising supervision over the preparation of food for sale. In regard to the Cattle Market, I am pleased to be able to record that during the past year very few old and emaciated animals were sent in for sale. Whilst it would be unwise to say that the trade in this type of animal has stopped in the neighbourhood, there is some satisfaction in knowing that the Corporation Cattle Market is not being used as a medium for it. On one occasion I had to interfere in connection with three sheep which were sold, two for 5/- and the other for 3/-. The purchasers were butchers from outside the City, and on being approached they consented to having the animals slaughtered at once under my supervision; all three carcasses were dropsical and very emaciated, and were surrendered for destruction. I am again pleased to have to record that the animals purchased by meat traders in the city were on the whole of good average quality. There were some few exceptions, but in these cases every facility was given to me to see the carcasses, etc., at the time of slaughter. So far as cattle were concerned there was only one case where the circumstances pointed to an attempt to evade the law in regard to unsound food. The animal in this case was an old diseased cow which I learnt was in possession of a dealer who was trying to dispose of it to a butcher. There was considerable difficulty in locating this animal, but when it was found the dealer was persuaded to have it slaughtered, and it proved to be so extensively tubercular as to necessitate its destruction.

As in previous years the visits to slaughter houses were made as often as possible while slaughtering was going on. Almost every week during the past year I was out two, and sometimes three nights on this work, frequently to a very late hour. Most of the diseased meat was found on such occasions, but once more I have pleasure in crediting several of the butchers with having voluntarily sent for me to examine animals which proved to be diseased on slaughter. In one instance I was asked to examine six pigs which were ill, and pronounced their affection to be Swine Fever; this diagnosis was subsequently confirmed by the Board of Agriculture Inspectors.

Herewith I give a list of the unsound food dealt with during the past year.

13 carcasses of beef	(tuberculosis)
8 forequarters of beef	(tuberculosis)
1 hindquarter of beef	(inflammation)
2 hindquarters of frozen beef	(decomposition)
12 carcasses of pork	(5 tuberculosis, 6 swine fever, 1 suffocation)
2 forequarters of pork	(unsound)
10 carcasses of mutton	(8 dropsy, 1 pleurisy, 1 apoplexy)
2 hindquarters of mutton	(inflammation)
16 ox livers	(6 tuberculosis, 5 flukes, 5 other causes)
15 pairs ox lungs	(tuberculosis)
4 ox heads	(3 tuberculosis, 1 actinomycosis)
2 ox hearts	(pericarditis)
7 pigs' livers	(5 cirrhosis, 2 parasites)
2 sheep's livers	(parasites)
6 lbs. plums	(unsound)
3 lbs. pears	(unsound)

One carcase of beef was that of a cow slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1913, at a farm in the City area.

The total amount of unsound food shews a marked increase on any previous year. Several of the carcasses of beef taken were those of animals in well nourished condition, and their surrender involved considerable financial hardship on the owners. Practically from the time I commenced duty in Rochester I have advocated the formation of an Insurance Society among the meat traders in the neighbourhood, and it is satisfactory to know that such a Society was formed during the past year. A meeting of the traders of Rochester, Chatham, Gillingham and the Medway District was held, and a local branch of the Master Butchers' Federation was formed. Following its formation a conference with representatives of the Farmers' Union was held to discuss the question of instituting an insurance scheme. At both meetings I was present by request. The final result was a scheme providing for the insurance of steers and maiden heifers at 2/- a head, and of bulls and cows at 6/- a head; the vendor and buyer each to pay one half of the sums mentioned. No animal, however, can be insured if the price paid for it be less than £14. In the case of steers and heifers full compensation is allowed, and two thirds the value in the





case of bulls and cows. The existence of this insurance scheme will undoubtedly remove a good deal of temptation from those who find animals diseased on slaughter, and will, too, make inspection work less trying than it has been in the past. It is obviously against the maintenance of friendly working conditions when a visit to a slaughter house may result in a large and unexpected loss to a butcher.

An incident of the past year which is perhaps worth recording was as follows :—

In May last I reported to the Health Committee on the action of an inspector of the Board of Agriculture in connection with the carcasses of some tubercular pigs. 25 pigs were slaughtered by order of the Board in an adjoining rural district as the result of an outbreak of Swine Fever. The slaughtering was done by a Rochester Butcher, who subsequently brought the carcasses and “ plucks ” to his premises in the City, ready for dispatch to London the following day. The carcasses, etc., in accordance with the Inspector’s instructions, were duly sent off marked for inspection by the London authorities. My information was that several of the pigs were affected with extensive tuberculosis, the internal organs showing unmistakeable evidence of the disease. No attempt was made to keep the diseased carcasses and organs separate, nor was there any arrangement whereby the diseased organs could be associated with the particular carcasses from which they had been taken. In my report I commented on the fact that the Board should permit diseased meat to be sent to market at all, and that in sending it measures were not taken to facilitate proper inspection and decisions regarding the carcasses. Although the matter did not affect the City itself, the Health Committee considered that it was one of public interest and decided to communicate with the Board of Agriculture regarding it. A representative of the Board subsequently interviewed the Town Clerk and myself, and we were informed that, as the result of the Committee’s action, instructions had been given that in the future, pigs slaughtered in connection with Swine Fever outbreaks and found to be affected in any degree with Tuberculosis were to be buried forthwith.

Two cases of slaughtering on unlicensed premises were dealt with during the year. In one instance, a butcher, who had been previously cautioned, was prosecuted and fined 20/- and costs. The other case was that of a pig-keeper who was found to be slaughtering on his premises fairly regularly. A caution was given, and the slaughtering was stopped.

The frequent visits to the Slaughter Houses shewed that on the whole reasonable observance was given to the requirements of the bye-laws. Only on a few occasions had complaint to be made regarding uncleanness of the premises. I might mention, however, that more humane instruments of slaughter could be adopted than are now in general use.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE.

Primary Inspections of Premises	..	..	..	..	538
House to House Inspections	..	..	..	..	186
Caravans Inspected	..	..	..	..	58
Re-inspections after Service of Notices	..	..	..	..	822
Visits to Works in Progress	..	..	..	..	2295
,,    Factories and Workshops	..	..	..	..	372
,,    Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	19
,,    Slaughter-houses and Food Inspections	..	..	..	..	403
,,    Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops	..	..	..	..	25
,,    Fried Fish Shops	..	..	..	..	16
Visits re Infectious Disease	..	..	..	..	335
Miscellaneous Visits	..	..	..	..	312
					<hr/> 5381 <hr/>

DRAINAGE.

Number of Houses re-drained	..	..	..	..	195
,,    ,,    partly re-drained	..	..	..	..	47
Defective drains repaired	..	..	..	..	18
Drains unstopped and cleansed	..	..	..	..	104
New soilpipes fixed	..	..	..	..	16
New ventshafts fixed	..	..	..	..	121
Ventshafts repaired	..	..	..	..	4
Privies abolished and replaced by w.c.’s	..	..	..	..	144
New w.c. apartments built	..	..	..	..	83
W.C.’s provided with new pans and traps	..	..	..	..	265
,,    ,,    ,, flushing apparatus	..	..	..	..	243
W.C. fittings repaired and cleansed	..	..	..	..	23
New cesspools dug	..	..	..	..	26
Cesspools deepened	..	..	..	..	20
Cesspools repaired	..	..	..	..	6
Old cesspools filled in	..	..	..	..	20
New sinks fixed	..	..	..	..	97
Sink waste pipes fixed, trapped or repaired	..	..	..	..	101
New urinals constructed	..	..	..	..	4
Water tests applied	..	..	..	..	498
Smoke tests applied	..	..	..	..	387





# MISCELLANEOUS.

Number of houses closed	..	..	..	..	..	34
Number of houses demolished	..	..	..	..	..	27
Roofs repaired	..	..	..	..	..	45
Guttering or downpipes provided or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	74
Damp walls remedied	..	..	..	..	..	19
Yards repaved	..	..	..	..	..	85
Yard paving repaired	..	..	..	..	..	36
Additional light to rooms provided	..	..	..	..	..	7
Defective walls and ceiling plaster repaired	..	..	..	..	..	50
Defective floors repaired	..	..	..	..	..	76
Defective windows repaired	..	..	..	..	..	56
Dirty walls and ceilings cleansed	..	..	..	..	..	84
Dirty houses cleansed	..	..	..	..	..	4
Overcrowding abated	..	..	..	..	..	6
Nuisances from manure and refuse abated	..	..	..	..	..	8
Miscellaneous defects remedied	..	..	..	..	..	98
Total number of Sanitary Defects remedied						2246
Number of rooms fumigated after infectious disease						164

# OFFICE WORK.

Letters received and dealt with	..	..	..	..	1128
Complaints received and dealt with	..	..	..	..	160
Letters written	..	..	..	..	343
Intimation Notices served	..	..	..	..	573
Statutory Notices served	..	..	..	..	21
Notices sent out re cesspools and privies	..	..	..	..	1638
Notices sent to Schools re infectious disease cases	..	..	..	..	142
Number of plans of new drainage drawn	..	..	..	..	101

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

T. TOPPING,

Sanitary Inspector.



**FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, LAUNDRIES, WORKPLACES, & HOMEWORK.**

1.—**Inspection of Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces.**

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries) ..	307		
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises including in part 3 of this Report) ..	65		
Total .. .. .	372		

2.—**Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.**

Particulars.	Number of Defects		
	Found.	Remedied.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :</i>			
Want of Cleanliness .. .. .	3	3	
Want of Ventilation .. .. .	1		
Other Nuisances.. .. .	13	12	
Sanitary Accommodation. {	insufficient .. .. .	2	
	unsuitable or defective..	3	
	not separate for sexes ..	1	
Total .. .. .	25	20	

3.—**Home Work.**

Nature of Work.	Number.
Wearing Apparel—	
Lists Received .. .. .	24
Outworkers—Workmen .. .. .	80

4.—**Registered Workshops.**

Worshops on the Register at the end of the year.	Number.
Workshops .. .. .	211
Bakehouses .. .. .	16
Total.. .. .	227

5.—**Other Matters.**

Class.	Number.
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Acts (s. 5, 1901).	
Notified by H.M. Inspector ..	7





TABLE 1.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1913 and previous Years.

NAME OF DISTRICT.—ROCHESTER.

YEAR.	Popula- tion estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths		Nett Deaths belonging to the District			
		Un- corrected Number.	Nett.				of Non- residents regis- tered in the District.	of residents not regis- tered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number	Rate.	Number.	Rate.			Number.	Rate per 1,000 nett Births	Number.	Rate.
I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1908	31164	761		24'4	488	15'6	130	23	58	76'2	381	12'2
1909	31246	764		24'4	488	15'6	142	19	60	78'5	365	11'6
1910	31328	692		22	407	12'9	122	25	50	72'2	310	9'8
1911	31410	756	756	24	545	17'3	108	48	87	115	485	15'4
1912	31489	733	740	23'8	492	15'6	146	53	62	83'7	399	12'6
1913	31571	705	712	22'5	440	13'9	140	44	57	80	344	10'8

Area of District in acres (land and inland water) } 2,715.

Total population at all ages, 31,388

Number of inhabited houses.—

Information not to hand.

Average number of persons per house.—

Information not to hand.

At Census  
of 1911.

TABLE II.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1913.

ROCHESTER DISTRICT.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases Notified.								Total Cases Notified in each Locality of the District.		Total cases removed to Hospital.
	At all ages.	At Ages—Years.							SOUTH.	NORTH.	
		Under 1 Year.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 & upwards.			
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup) ..	54		16	33	4	1			15	39	40
Erysipelas .....	36			3	4	13	12	4	16	20	
Scarlet Fever .....	58		14	37	4	3			21	37	46
Enteric Fever .....	16		2	7	3	3	1		4	12	15
Puerperal Fever .....	1					1			1		
Polionmyelitis.....	3			3					3		
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	62		2	16	14	22	3	5	29	33	
Other Form of Tuberculosis.....	36		5	14	6	8	3		21	15	
Totals.....	266		39	113	35	51	19	9	110	156	101

Isolation Hospital—St. William's, Delce Road, Rochester (joint Hospital for Rochester and Chatham).  
Total available beds, 104 ; Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated, 4.



TABLE III.  
Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1913.

ROCHESTER DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH.		Nett Deaths at Subjoined Ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the district.									Total Deaths whether of Residents or Non Residents in Institutions in the District.
		All Ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 2.	2 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	
All Causes	Certified ..	338	54	11	7	15	16	39	68	128	181
	Uncertified ..	6	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	1
Enteric Fever .. .. .		2	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	2
Measles .. .. .		1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever .. .. .		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Whooping Cough .. .. .		2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and Croup ..		1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	6
Influenza .. .. .		2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)		29	..	..	1	2	9	12	2	3	8
Tuberculous Meningitis ..		1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	5
Other Tuberculous Diseases		5	..	..	..	3	1	..	1	..	7
Cancer, Malignant Disease ..		37	..	..	..	..	..	2	15	20	19
Rheumatic Fever .. .. .		4	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	1	..
Meningitis .. .. .		1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Organic Heart Disease ..		33	..	..	..	2	1	10	6	14	8
Bronchitis .. .. .		20	3	1	..	1	..	..	3	12	8
Pneumonia (all forms) ..		22	5	3	3	2	..	2	2	5	6
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs		2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2
Diarrhœa and Enteritis ..		11	9	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ..		1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	9
Cirrhosis of Liver .. .. .		2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	1
Nephritis and Bright's Disease .. .. .		14	..	..	..	..	..	1	8	5	10
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition		2	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..
Congenital Debility & Malformation, including Premature Birth		25	25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide		18	..	..	2	2	1	2	3	8	13
Suicides.. .. .		5	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	1	1
Other Defined Diseases ..		88	8	1	..	..	12	6	16	55	58
Diseases, ill-defined or unknown		10	1	3	..	1	..	..	1	4	3
All Causes .. .. .		344	57	12	7	15	16	39	68	130	182





TABLE IV.  
**INFANT MORTALITY.**  
**1913. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.**  
**ROCHESTER DISTRICT.**

CAUSE OF DEATH.			Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 4 Weeks.	4 Weeks and under 3 Months.	3 Months and under 6 Months.	6 Months and under 9 Months.	9 Months and under 12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
<b>All Causes.</b>	Certified .. ..	..	15	4	1	2	22	9	9	9	5	54
	Uncertified .. ..	..	2		1		3					3
Whooping Cough .....									1	1		2
Diphtheria and Croup .....												
Erysipelas .....												
Other Tuberculous Diseases .....												
Meningitis ( <i>not Tuberculous</i> ) .....										1		1
Convulsions .....					1		1		1			2
Bronchitis .....				1			1	1	1			3
Pneumonia (all forms) .....									1	3	1	5
Diarrhœa .....										1		1
Enteritis.....				1			1	1	2	2	2	8
Syphilis .....						1	1	2	1			4
Atelectasis .....			1				1					1
Congenital Malformations .....			3				3				1	4
Premature Birth .....			8	1		1	10					10
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus ....			1	1			2	5	2	1	1	11
Other Causes .....			2				2					2
			17	4	2	2	25	9	9	9	5	57

Nett Births in the Year
 

legitimate, 672.  
 illegitimate, 40.

Nett Deaths in the Year of
 

legitimate infants, 53.  
 illegitimate infants, 4.

**ST. WILLIAM'S ISOLATION HOSPITAL.**

Two hundred and seventy-two cases were admitted during the year. The average for the preceding ten years is 306.

ROCHESTER.					
Ages.	Scarlet Fever.	Typhoid Fever.	Diphtheria.	Total.	
Under Five ..	6	3	13	22	Total for Rochester 101
Five and upwards	40	12	27	79	
CHATHAM.					
Under Five ..	11	0	20	31	Total for Chatham 157
Five and Upwards	48	6	72	126	
FROM NEIGHBOURING AUTHORITIES.					
Under Five ..	2	0	2	4	Total Neighbouring 14
Five and Upwards	7	0	3	10	
	114	21	137	272	

Eleven cases were found to be wrongly diagnosed, and were discharged as soon as possible.

Bacteriological examinations of patients in the Hospital, for purposes of diagnosis, and before discharge, are made whenever it seems desirable.

The mortality was as follows :— Scarlet Fever, '8 per cent.  
 Typhoid Fever, 9'5 per cent.  
 Diphtheria, 4'3 per cent.

Cases considered wrongly diagnosed are not included in the above.

Average number of days detained in Hospital :—  
 Scarlet Fever, 48'8  
 Typhoid Fever, 49  
 Diphtheria, 29'7

Deaths and cases wrongly diagnosed are not included in these averages.





# Report as to Port Sanitary District.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
GUILDHALL, ROCHESTER

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PORT SANITARY COMMITTEE.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to lay before you a Report of the Sanitary Work performed during the year 1913.

The vessels inspected in the Port were as follows :—

FOREIGN TRADE—

British Steam	67	Sailing	31
Foreign Steam	66	Sailing	36
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	133		67

COASTING TRADE—

British Steam	605	Sailing	280
Foreign Steam	12	Sailing	2
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	617		282

Total Steam 750.

Total Sailing 349.

The following were also boarded by the Sanitary Inspector :—

Barges	..	..	1112
Canal Boats	..	..	439
Lighters	..	..	62
Fishing Boats	..	..	19
Water Boats	..	..	2
			<hr/>
			1634

Total number of Vessels inspected	..	..	..	2733
Total number in 1912	..	..	..	2652
Total number in 1911	..	..	..	2808
Total number in 1910	..	..	..	2832
Total number in 1909	..	..	..	2667
Total number in 1908	..	..	..	2751
Total number in 1907	..	..	..	2835
Total number in 1906	..	..	..	2666
Total number in 1905	..	..	..	3633
Total number in 1904	..	..	..	3029

NUMBER AND NATIONALITY OF VESSELS :—

British, 2617; Norwegian, 56; Belgian, 24; Danish, 11; German, 7; Dutch, 7; Russian, 4  
Swedish, 3; Finnish, 3; French, 1.

REPORT AS TO THE EXECUTION OF CANAL BOATS ACTS FOR THE YEAR 1913.

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INSPECTOR—HENRY EVANS. 63, WESTON ROAD, STROOD, ROCHESTER.

Remuneration .. £4 per annum.

No Boats have been detained during the year

No. of new boats registered	..	..	..	0
„ boats re-registered owing to structural alterations	..	..	..	0
„ „ „ for other reasons	..	..	..	12
„ „ on register on December 31st, 1913	..	..	..	122
„ „ inspected	..	..	..	439
„ „ with one or more infringements	..	..	..	95
Total number of infringements	..	..	..	132
Number of infringements remedied	..	..	..	132
„ women on boats inspected	..	..	..	11
„ children under 5 years	..	..	..	0
Total number of boats on register	..	..	..	122





CLASSIFIED LIST OF INFRINGEMENTS.

Absence of Certificate, Act 77, Sec. 3 .. .. .	15
Marking, Act 77, Sec. 3 .. .. .	13
Cleanliness, Reg. 11 .. .. .	27
Dilapidated, Reg. 11 .. .. .	2
Painting, Reg. 9 .. .. .	19
Defective cabin floors and bulkheads .. .. .	4
Bilges under cabin floors to cleanse .. .. .	8
Sleeping berths to paint .. .. .	6
Defective skylights and scuttles .. .. .	4
No proper water vessels .. .. .	4
Leaky decks causing wet berths .. .. .	3
Food cupboards to cleanse and limewash .. .. .	2
Defective seat lockers .. .. .	4
To provide new scuttle hatch ladders .. .. .	1
To provide covers for drinking water tanks .. .. .	2
Cabin stoves and funnels to renew .. .. .	7
Food cupboards to erect .. .. .	6
Skylights to glaze .. .. .	3
Defective ventilators .. .. .	2

132

No case of Infectious Disease was met with, nor was it necessary to take legal steps in respect of any infringement.

GENERAL SANITARY WORK IN THE PORT.

Systematic Inspections of the shipping in the Port are made by me, and vessels specially visited and their crews medically examined, as occasion seems to require.

WATER BOATS.—Two are employed in supplying ships with water for drinking purposes. The boats have been inspected fourteen times during the year and found generally in satisfactory condition. The tanks of each boat have been cleansed and liquid-cemented four times during the year.

CASES OF SICKNESS.—Fifty-three cases of sickness came under observation on board shipping in Port, and in all serious cases a private Doctor was advised or the patient removed to Hospital.

The cases of sickness were:—Influenza, 12; Colds, 10; Rheumatism, 7; Accidents, 4; Abscesses, 4; Gastritis, 3; Alcoholism, 1; Fireman's Cramp, 1; Dyspepsia, 1; Inflammation of Lungs, 1; Ulcerated Stomach, 1; Epilepsy, 1; Debility, 1; Blood-poisoning, 1; Lumbago, 1; Rupture, 1; Cancer of Stomach, 1; Boils, 1; Measles, 1. With the exception of the last mentioned, no case of infectious disease was met with.

VESSELS FROM INFECTED PORTS, OR WITH SICKNESS ON BOARD.—There were forty-two of such vessels during the year. They received special attention, and when it appeared desirable the crews were paraded and medically examined. Particular observation was kept over vessels from Infected Ports during their stay in this Port.

PASSENGERS.—As far as could be ascertained thirty-two passengers reached this Port from foreign and coastwise.

CARGOES.—Flour, grain, malt, dates (for cattle food), onions and potatoes were found to be in good condition and landed. Eleven cargoes of sprats were examined and passed as fit for human food.

Otterham Quay, Halstow, Whitewall Creek, and Janes' Creek have been visited from time to time and offer nothing for comment.

Riverside Factories have been occasionally visited and the Port Sanitary Regulations duly posted.

The following table shows the number of notices served by the Port Sanitary Inspector during the year on vessels other than Canal Boats, and the nuisances discovered and dealt with.

	Foreign	Coastwise	Barge	Total
Forecastles to cleanse or limewash .. .. .	62	107	71	240
Forecastles or cabin to paint .. .. .	7	11	11	29
Defective light in forecastle or cabins .. .. .	9	3	2	14
Defective ventilation in cabin or forecastles .. .. .	3	4	1	8
Defective ventilation of holds .. .. .	1	4	0	5
Leaky decks causing wet berths .. .. .	4	5	4	13
Drinking water tanks to cleanse .. .. .	10	33	49	92
Defective Bulkheads .. .. .	1	2	10	13
Stoves and funnels to provide .. .. .	0	3	1	4
Hammocks and bedding to cleanse .. .. .	7	5	0	12
To remove ship's stores from crew space .. .. .	2	6	0	8
To remove paints from bow lockers and forecastles .. .. .	1	5	0	6
W.C.'s to cleanse and disinfect .. .. .	27	68	0	95
Peaks and lazarettes to cleanse and limewash .. .. .	6	3	0	9
Side scuttles and deck prisms to refit .. .. .	13	41	2	56
Bilges to cleanse and disinfect .. .. .	0	0	11	11
Defective floors in cabins and forecastles .. .. .	1	6	3	10
Leaky hawse pipes into forecastles .. .. .	3	1	0	4
Leaky pawl and windlass bitts .. .. .	5	14	0	19
Food cupboards to cleanse, paint or limewash .. .. .	20	51	7	78
Defective W.C. pans or fittings .. .. .	3	15	6	24
Cable stage to clean out and limewash .. .. .	3	16	0	19



	Foreign	Coastwise	Barge	Total
Dirty old beds destroyed .. ..	0	9	1	10
Defective scuppers in forecastle .. ..	4	3	0	7
Defective skylights .. ..	0	0	3	3
Skylights to glaze .. ..	0	0	9	9
Sleeping berths to cleanse and paint .. ..	9	16	8	33
To remove accumulation of filth from cookhouse or forecastle .. ..	5	0	0	5
To provide covers for drinking water tanks .. ..	3	1	1	5
To provide bottom boards for sleeping berths .. ..	0	6	4	10
To cleanse and limewash bow lockers .. ..	2	5	0	7
Defective chain trunks in forecastle .. ..	1	1	0	2
Deck houses cleansed and disinfected .. ..	17	0	0	17
To cleanse harness casks .. ..	0	2	0	2
To caulk skylight and scuttle hatch combings .. ..	0	4	5	9
To ventilate food cupboards .. ..	4	10	0	14
To repair defective seat lockers .. ..	0	1	7	8
To renew ventilator flanges .. ..	2	4	1	7
To erect food cupboards .. ..	0	2	0	2
To empty, disinfect and limewash drinking water tanks .. ..	11	3	1	15
To repair mess room table .. ..	2	0	0	2
To provide door to food cupboards .. ..	0	8	1	9
Stale Vegetables destroyed, 2 bushels .. ..				
	248	478	219	945

All notices, except three, were complied with.

Nineteen dead dogs were found on the foreshore, and buried.

#### MEDICAL INSPECTION AT SHEERNESS.

Twenty-eight out of two hundred vessels were not inspected at Sheerness. This is 14 per cent. The average percentage for the preceding ten years is 14.

I beg to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

S. PRITCHETT.

